



## ON THE WATER FRONT



*During the next year, we will all be making important decisions about our water. I believe there is no more important issue facing Tucson Water customers. It is our responsibility to provide you with as much information as possible so that you can make informed decisions when called on to do so.*

*Questions of future water supply, sustaining our community, protecting our environment, and determining what quality of water we will be using can be complex and difficult to answer. In order to make sure you understand the issues and how they affect you, Tucson Water has begun a **customer information campaign** designed to let you know the facts about water. I want to let you know about this for two reasons.*

*First, I ask that you be watching for information on television and in the newspapers which will give you interesting and informative facts about our water. I also want to encourage you to ask us questions, take advantage of the tours we offer of our facilities, and discuss these issues with your friends and family.*

*Second, I want you to understand that we need to spend some money to get this information to you. You've told us that television announcements, newspaper ads, and customer newsletters are the best ways to communicate with you about important issues. These cost money to create and deliver to you. It's likely that being fully informed about our decisions and understanding how we all need to work together will save us all money in the long run. If you have questions about this campaign, please call us at 791-4331.*

David Modeer  
Director, Tucson Water

### **What you should know about your water Customer Information Campaign Highlights Critical Water Issues**

As a service to you, our customers, Tucson Water has begun an information campaign to help you better understand the critical water issues we all face during the next several years. This campaign is focusing on the overpumping of our groundwater, the drop in our water table, the need for all of us to work together to conserve water, and the need to use Colorado

River water in some way to offset our groundwater use.

As you see this information appear, we would appreciate your comments and questions. If you have suggestions or want more information about these issues, write to David Modeer, Director, Tucson Water, City of Tucson, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.

**"Reclaimed" water is a  
vital resource for the future  
City Keeping Golf Courses  
Green With Treated Wastewater**

Tucson Water supplies reclaimed wastewater to 12 golf courses and a driving range in its service area. The City has offered to supply reclaimed water to golf courses served by other water companies or who have their own wells, but cannot force them to make the change. The following golf courses are kept green with reclaimed water:

Del Urich	Raven Golf Club
El Rio	Skyline
Fred Enke	Starr Pass
Randolph North	Tucson Country Club
Gallery at Dove Mountain	Ventana Canyon
Heritage Highlands	Tucson Family Golf
La Paloma	

**Preparing for the Year 2000  
at Tucson Water**

A number of years ago, Tucson Water began an assessment of our major computer systems to make sure that any Year 2000 (Y2K) problems in those systems could be corrected. In 1997, Tucson Water formed a project team to look at all of our computer systems to identify and address any potential Y2K problems that might affect our ability to serve you. This included examining all equipment that relies on a computer chip to control some or all of its functions. We've identified the equipment that could experience Y2K problems and we're either upgrading or replacing those items. We expect to have all the changes completed and tested by early autumn.

We're also putting Y2K contingency plans into place, such as identifying additional suppliers for critical equipment, ensuring we are prepared for any potential power interruptions and making sure we have expert staff available to react to any problems.

For more information on how Tucson Water and other City of Tucson Departments are addressing the Year 2000 issue, please visit Tucson's Y2K web site at

[www.ci.tucson.az.us/y2k/](http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/y2k/) or talk to Tucson Water about Year 2000 issues, call 791-2666.

# Coliform Bacteria Testing Results

**December 1998**

*Click this box to see the graphic representation of the December 1998 Groundwater Quality Report. (When you are finished there, you will need to use your browser's BACK button to return to this page)*

## Why should bacteria count matter to me?

Millions of people around the world suffer from waterborne diseases caused by bacteria. This is rare in the United States, where most water utilities disinfect the water and monitor and test for microorganisms. Tucson Water adds a sufficient level of chlorine to keep the groundwater we use safe for drinking, cooking and bathing.

## What's a coliform, anyway?

Coliforms are bacteria which are not harmful themselves but may indicate the presence of other, potentially harmful bacteria.

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

*One part per million (ppm) is the same as one second of time in 11.6 days.*

## Why should the chlorine level in my water matter to me?

Chlorine kills bacteria and germs that can grow in drinking water and prevents waterborne disease. Chlorine is the most widely used water disinfectant in North America. Tucson Water continually tests water at more than 240 locations to make sure chlorine levels stay within the target range.

## Groundwater Quality Report

**December 1998**

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System
Sodium (ppm)	Average	51	51	49	35	33	33	30	46	50	41	41
	Range	38-80	35-72	24-93	24-49	26-51	22-40	21-38	33-60	37-86	37-46	21-93
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average	402	323	314	230	221	225	221	328	288	209	266
	Range	212-563	226-355	184-623	182-325	162-297	202-249	154-295	210-480	208-362	207-214	154-623
Hardness (ppm)	Average	191	154	137	95	101	103	110	158	117	78	120
	Range	73-265	104-198	73-306	44-137	69-145	69-120	78-153	85-288	69-150	73-84	44-306
pH (units)	Average	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.0
	Range	7.6-8.4	8.1-8.3	7.5-8.4	7.6-8.1	7.3-8.3	7.3-8.4	7.5-8.3	7.4-8.0	7.7-8.2	7.9-8.3	7.3-8.4
Temperature	Average	72	70	72	74	71	70	70	72	75	74	72

Temperature	Average	72	70	72	74	71	70	70	72	75	74	72
(deg F)	Range	68-76	54-75	65-79	64-82	64-84	60-78	63-78	66-77	63-83	68-82	54-84

## What does all this mean to me?

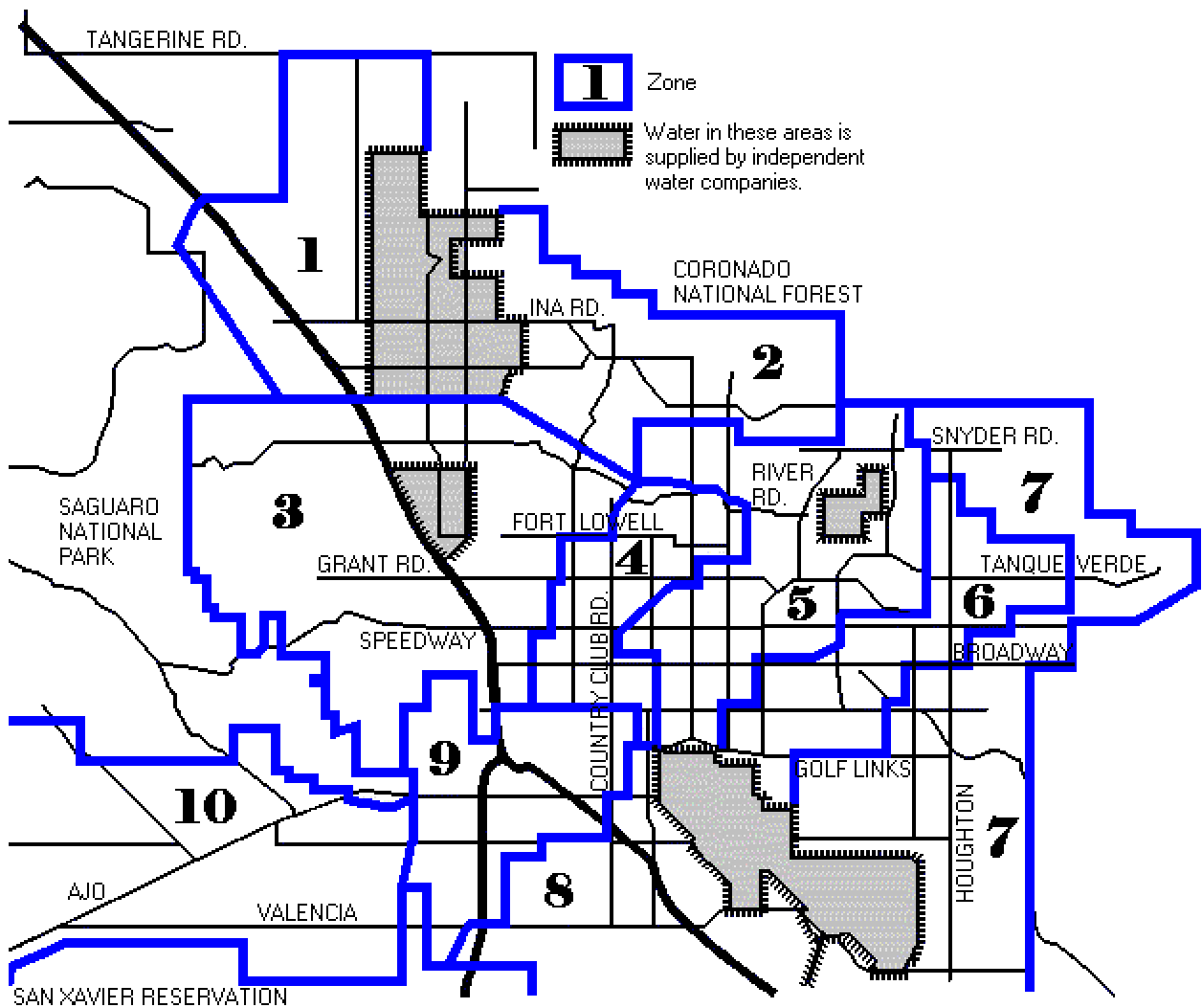
**Sodium.** The American Heart Association recommended standard for daily sodium intake is 3,000 milligrams. In general, the amount of sodium ingested from drinking water is a small part of a person's overall dietary intake. People on severely restricted sodium diets may want to consult their health care provider about sodium levels in their water.

**Mineral content** measures the amount of total dissolved solids, or **TDS**, in the water. Mineral content can often affect the taste of the water. For example, many people can detect a salty taste when TDS is above 500 parts per million. The federal government has recommended an aesthetic standard of 500 ppm or less for mineral content in drinking water.

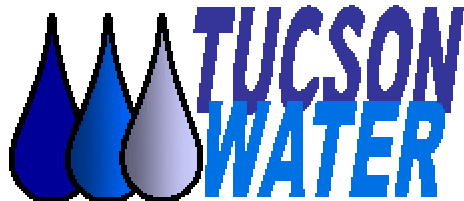
**Hardness** measures the ease with which soap can be lathered. The softer water is, the more easily it produces a soap lather. Water hardness also determines the degree of water spotting on dishes, plumbing fixtures and bath areas. In addition, most home water conditioners are set based on the hardness of the water entering the home. For the most part, Tucson's groundwater is considered moderately hard.

**pH.** Swimming pool chemistry, some fish aquariums and ponds, and certain water conditioner systems require you to control the pH of the water. pH is a measurement of acidity. Waters with a pH below 7.0 are considered acidic. The federal secondary, or aesthetic, standard for pH is 6.5 to 8.5.





The information shown on this map was collected at 242 sampling points.



*The Water Connection*  
 is produced by Tucson Water.  
 To receive a copy, or to receive this  
 information in Spanish, call 791-4331  
 or mail your request to:  
**Customer Information**  
 P.O. Box 27210  
 Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

**City of Tucson**  
**TTY number:**  
**791-2639**

Si usted desea este  
 documento escrito en  
 español, por favor, llame  
 al  
**791-4331.**